

amous proverb should commence by saying, "No soil, no grass." Judging from our actions, we seem to imagine that everything springs from our stock. A little reflection will now show what an injury our live stock speculators are attempting to inflict upon you. If you have the soil, instinct will teach you that the soil will produce the grass, that the grass will produce the stock, etc. Now consider the effect of reversing this law of nature. If you buy fine stock that needs fine grass, your stock will deteriorate while you are studying how to raise the grass, and your grass will deteriorate while you are studying how to improve your soil. And yet you wonder why you have such a "poor catch." The better half of England is a permanent pasture, and those fine herds from which yours have sprung luxuriate knee deep on a great variety of the most nutritious grasses, supplemented with oil meal, cotton seed meal, etc., for the purpose of enriching the manure, and yet you presume to attempt improvement of your stock under your existing theories and conditions! If you are a friend of your own interests, commence improvement with your soil, and progress forward, not backward. It is as unreasonable to expect good grasses from poor soils, as good stock from poor grasses. Even granting the wild assertion to be true that your scrub will consume as much as your thoroughbred, and produce an inferior yield, this proves that she is a superior manure machine, and you must be contented with her so long as she is best suited to your conditions and circumstances. Stock speculators are vehement advocates of the permanent pasture, and one of their main arguments in its favor is that it gives an early bite, a late bite, and a delicious bite throughout a long season. It is your interest to retain a breed that will stand the inclemencies of the weather during the continuance of those early bites and those late bites, and the parching rays during those intermediate bites.

The permanent pasture has many other advantages over your existing pastures. It furnishes a ceaseless change of food—a change which is as desirable in summer as in winter, thereby promoting the growth and health of the herd. It is proof against extremes of temperature; for amongst the varieties of grasses will be found some which flourish best under high degrees of heat; others under a cool atmosphere, and the tufts of roots are a mutual protection to the mass. Its highest capabilities are three times greater than those of the ordinary pasture—that is, it can treble the beef or dairy products per acre when compared with the alternate or rotation system of ordinary pastures. It can regularly and systematically be converted into soiling, and can be maintained less expensively than any other farm crop.

The question may here be asked, "How is it that the grazing stock can take from the soil so much nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in the form of bone, muscle, and milk, and yet allow the soil to improve?" It is true that the soil in its entirety cannot become more fertile, without top dressings every three or four years, but the roots bring up the inexhaustible stores of fertility from far below; the soil not being exposed to the parching sun, no plant food is lost, and none is washed away by the drench-

ing rains; the atmospheric food supplies are all preserved; organic matter is increased, and over nine-tenths of the substances removed are restored in the manure of the grazing herds. Grass is nature's method of soil improvement, all other methods being artificial. Continuous cropping and manure mismanagement have robbed your soil of its fertility, especially of its nitrogen; continuous pasturing is an efficient method of restoring it to the state of its virginity.

How Agricultural Exhibitions Should be Managed.

Mr. William Kerr, of Harriston, Ont., makes the following suggestions with regard to the management of agricultural exhibitions:—

First.—Farmers should Manage their own Exhibitions.—An agricultural exhibition is, as the name implies, a display of what the farmer can produce from the cultivation of the soil, and those articles of his own manufacture whence he derives his revenue. They also include everything that is necessary to the proper and successful management of a farm. Now, as agriculture is plainly the farmer's business, it is only right that they should manage the exhibitions held for the purpose of furthering their own interests. Men who have been engaged in farming all their days surely ought to know those points that require most attention, and by a judicious arrangement of prizes, strive to arrive at some practical result with reference to those points. The farmer is not such an ignoramus as he is often represented to be, but is an intelligent, well-informed man, quite as competent to manage an agricultural exhibition as some of our sporting friends.

Second.—The Amusement Ring as it now is should be Abolished.—The fine display of live stock, manufactured articles, grain, etc., should afford sufficient pleasure and useful knowledge to any one for the time and money spent attending them. There may be something funny and amusing in witnessing the many foolish and even hurtful amusements that are now becoming to be considered the necessary adjuncts of a successful exhibition, but they are like wild oats sown with wheat, something that should not be there. For instance, what has horse-racing to do with agricultural interests? We might, with as much consistency, turn part of a race-course into shape and hold an agricultural exhibition in connection with the races, offering a good share of the prize money to it. It is time that these horse-races, circuses, and the like should be abolished. If the government were to withdraw its aid from any exhibition indulging in these practices it might have a good effect.

Third.—The Exhibits should be Systematically Arranged.—Were this done, then each could be seen by itself, a comparison made, and the reason why the prize was given. Thus the work of the judges could be better criticized, and they would therefore do their best to make correct decisions. I would also recommend the use of catalogues; let everything on exhibition be named and numbered to correspond with the names and numbers in the catalogue. Have tickets printed enumerating department, class, name and number. Let each thing exhibited have one attached in such a way that it would be easily seen, with strict orders to the exhibi-

tor that it was to remain during the exhibition, otherwise the catalogues would be of little value. In order to make the arrangements complete, it would be necessary to appoint persons to be on the ground to superintend the arrangement of the exhibits, and also to have all entries made a sufficient length of time beforehand to enable the managers to make needful preparations. At township exhibitions especially, there is a great want of order. The exhibitor disposes of what he has brought out to suit himself, without much regard to order or effect. To be sure, there are certain portions of the ground allotted for the different departments, horses having the right of way anywhere, and there the arrangement ends. The way in which the horse exhibit is kept locked up at the larger exhibitions is the cause of much dissatisfaction. Why is it that the only chance of inspecting this exhibit is by a constant attendance on the ring where they are judged, while all other classes of live stock can be seen at any reasonable time. In order to remedy this defect, the directors should make a regulation requiring the stables to be open to public inspection during certain hours each day of the exhibition.

Fourth.—One Competent Judge, at least, should be Appointed for Each Class.—Judging, confessedly, is the most difficult part of the exhibition to manage. Good judging is indispensable to success, while on the other hand, bad judging, whether arising from incompetency or mercenary motives, will most assuredly end in failures. As a general thing, especially at township and county shows, the directors are among the principal exhibitors; they arrange the prize list, and they appoint the judges, who are, as a rule, personally known to one or more of the directors and are selected from a distance more or less remote from the place of exhibition. Should any one of them fail to arrive, his place is filled by some one picked up by the directors in their extremity, who may be, but most likely is not, competent to discharge the duties of his position. The directors should select unbiased men, who have a thorough knowledge of their work, when the object of the society is that the best should win. The judge whose knowledge is limited concerning the class he is to decide about, although he may give his decision to the best of his ability, will certainly make wrong awards. Thus much harm is done, for the exhibition suffers for want of confidence in its decisions, and inferior stock is advertised as prize winners, to the injury of the owners of better and more valuable stock, who, knowing that they are entitled to prizes, are apt to become disgusted with the way things go, and the exhibition will be minus their exhibits in the future.

The one-judge system is coming into favor. It was tried in one or two classes at Toronto, and worked well, for in this way the responsibility of his decisions would rest upon his own shoulders. He would feel that he was selected to fill the position because of his ability, and he would endeavor to uphold his credit in making just awards.

Why should not judging be made a profession? And before any person could become a judge, he would have to undergo some examination which would be a test of his knowledge.